



State of Connecticut

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February 13, 2009

Chairman Thomas Colapietro, Chairman Jim Shapiro, Ranking Member Kevin Witkos,
Ranking Member Penny Bacchiochi and other distinguished Members of the Joint
Committee on General Law

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of ***SB 313, An Act
Concerning the Liquor Control Act and Local Options Concerning Package and
Grocery Store Beer Sales.***

There is ambiguity and inconsistency in Connecticut's general statutes regarding how a town can change their liquor ordinance. One section of the statute states the only role of the town electorate is what goes in the petition requesting a ballot question; however, another section indicates that the ballot must offer the electorate three options: allow no liquor, allow some liquor or allow all liquor. The General Assembly needs to clarify the proper ballot language when towns vote on a change to their liquor ordinance.

Currently, the town of Wilton's liquor ordinance permits the sell of alcohol in restaurants only, but does not allow the sale in retail stores. Many residents of Wilton would like to vote on changing the liquor ordinance; however, the discrepancy in the general statutes has caused a problem with the ballot language. The Secretary of State has recommended we change the general statutes to clarify this issue and remove the current ambiguity.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Toni

Toni Boucher
State Senator

TB:SB